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Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Letter dated 12 May 2015 from the Assistant Secretary-General, Controller, addressed to the Chair of the Fifth Committee and the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I refer to the note by the Secretary-General on financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 dated 2 April 2015 (A/69/857 and Corr.1), in which the General Assembly was informed that the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in Liberia and elsewhere in West Africa since late 2013 had had a multidimensional impact on UNMIL, including an increased threat by the disease to the Mission's personnel.

The Secretary-General also informed the General Assembly that the effects of the disease in Liberia had affected the delivery of the Mission's mandate, owing to unrest among the local populations and the weakening of Liberian institutions critical to the ongoing stabilization of the country and the development of its security forces. By its resolution 2190 (2014), the Security Council had decided that UNMIL should coordinate with the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response in the provision of humanitarian assistance and support in response to the Ebola crisis.

It should also be recalled that, in his previous note on the financing arrangements for UNMIL dated 21 October 2014 (A/69/545 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that the Mission's full-year expenditure was likely to exceed appropriated funding levels by $11.9 million, owing to the impact of the Ebola crisis and possible changes to the Mission's mandate.

In his note dated 2 April 2015, however, the Secretary-General informed the General Assembly that the updated projection of expenditures for the 2014/15 period would amount to $437.2 million, representing an overrun of some $10 million.

Accordingly, the Secretary-General requested the appropriation and assessment of the amount of $9,959,400 for the maintenance of the Mission for the

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12-month period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, in addition to the amount of $427,267,000 already appropriated and assessed under the terms of General Assembly resolutions 68/291 and 69/259. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its related report (A/69/839/Add.11), recommended that the Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in an amount not to exceed $9,959,400 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period in question, in addition to the amount of $427,267,000 already approved.

Since the issuance of the report of the Advisory Committee, however, the Mission has informed the Secretariat that its operational environment has once again been significantly altered by the facts on the ground in that:

(a) The costs associated with the repatriation of an engineering company and the rotation of military helicopters will no longer be incurred until the new financial period;

(b) A new unit originally expected to arrive in March 2015 will now arrive only in May, thereby reducing troop cost reimbursements;

(c) The decrease in fuel prices and the unavailability of a fixed-wing passenger aircraft have further reduced the operational cost of the Mission.

In the light of the foregoing, it is hereby requested that the proposal for additional funding for the Mission in the amount of $9,959,400 with regard to the 2014/15 period be withdrawn.

(*Signed*) Bettina Tucci **Bartsiotas**
Assistant Secretary-General, Controller